

influence of the war appears in the question mark affixed to the title. *Towards Social Democracy*?

A war-time product, again, and, at the same time, a permanent contribution to the theory of wages, as well as to the argument for sex-equality, is the small book, published in 1919, by Mrs Webb. It is called *The Women—Should they be Equal*?¹ Few are

the works that make the whole of their point with such force, clarity and genuine freedom from ancient prepossessions,

of every sort, as this. It is, in its origin, another "Minority Report"

In the summer of 1918, the Cabinet set up a Committee of six persons, to discover what principles, if any, should underlie the payment of wages to the millions of women then doing war work in substitution for men.

The Treasury Agreement of March 1915 had been read by everyone, at the time, as giving a pledge on the part of the Government that such women should receive the same pay as the men

whose work they undertook. The Ministry of Munitions in 1918 was claiming that this would cost too much. The

Trade Unions asserted that, in fact, the women were not being paid the men's rates, and that they ought to be so

paid. The Committee was therefore instructed not only to lay down a general guiding principle, but to say whether, in fact, the 1915 pledge, was a pledge, and, if so, whether

it had been carried out by Government Departments. On

this latter point, Mrs Webb found that a pledge had been given, and that it was being broken. The other members

(Sir J R Atkm, in the chair Di Janet
Campbell Sir
Lynden Macassey Sir William Mackenzie and
Sir Matthew
Nathan) said that the agreement of March
1915 was not a
pledge On the more general issue, she was,
again, unable
to agree on the mam
ground that the
"Majority assume, perhaps inadvertently,
that industry is
normally a function of the male, and that
women, like non-
¹ Fabian Society One Shilling